

In the Claims

Please consider the amended claims below:

13. (amended) A method for obtaining a transplastomic plant comprising the steps of:

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- a) introducing into a plastid of a plant cell a recombinant nucleic acid construct comprising a promoter functional in a plant cell plastid, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein providing for tolerance to a plastid lethal compound and a transcriptional termination region functional in a plant cell plastid,
 - b) placing said plant cell into which said nucleic acid construct has been introduced on a first culture medium comprising a sublethal amount of a plastid lethal compound corresponding to said protein providing for tolerance for a period of time sufficient to permit said plant cell to replicate, and
 - c) placing said plant cell on a second culture medium comprising said plastid lethal compound for a period of time sufficient to select plant cells capable of growing in the presence of said plastid lethal compound; and
 - d) regenerating a transplastomic plant from said plant cells that grow in said second culture medium.

14. (amended) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes for a protein providing tolerance to a herbicide, an inhibitor of a plastid metabolic pathway, a protease, or a nuclease.

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16. (amended) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said plastid lethal compound is selected from the group consisting of a herbicide, a protease, a nuclease, and a plastid metabolic pathway inhibitor.

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18. (amended) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid construct further comprises regions of plastid homology.